

488 were due to causes such as traffic accidents, industrial accidents, suicide, murder etc. 56 deaths were on account of suicide. None of the suicide cases were on account of non payment of salaries or harassment by employers. However, whenever complaints about non payment of salaries, harassment by employers etc. are received, the Indian Mission promptly takes up the matter with Saudi Authorities concerned. If necessary, the foreign employer is also black listed and action is also taken against recruiting agent concerned as per provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Illegal Migration of workers

177. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that illegal migration of workers to Iraq with the help of unregistered agencies taking place;
- (b) whether it is a fact that certain elements in the Protector of Emigrants Offices help those unauthorized agencies to circumvent the ban imposed by Government;
- (c) whether such unregistered agencies have been booked in this connection; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Some incidents of Indian workers being shifted to Iraq from countries like Kuwait by unscrupulous employers are reported from time to time.

(b) Since deployment of Indian workers in Iraq is prohibited, the offices of Protector of Emigrants do not grant emigration clearance or suspension to any emigrants intending to go to Iraq.

(c) and (d) the matter is taken up with concerned the State Governments for prosecuting about (seventeen) such unregistered agents.